



Biden approval buoyed by his pandemic response

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is plunging into the next phase of his administration with the steady approval of a majority of Americans, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The survey shows Biden is buoyed in particular by the public's broad backing for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. In the fourth month of his presidency, Biden's overall approval rating sits at 63%. When it comes to the new Democratic president's handling of the pandemic, 71% of Americans approve, including 47% of Republicans.

The AP-NORC poll also shows an uptick in Americans' overall optimism

about the state of the country. Fifty-four percent say the country is on the right track, higher than at any point in AP-NORC polls conducted since 2017; 44% think the nation is on the wrong track.

Those positive marks have fueled the Biden White House's confidence coming out of the president's first 100 days in office, a stretch in which he secured passage of a sweeping \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package and surged COVID-19 vaccines across the country. The U.S., which has suffered the most virus deaths of any nation, is now viewed envitably by much of the rest of the world for its speedy vaccination program and robust supplies of the shots.

Continued on next page



POLL CAT

President Joe Biden speaks about the economy, in the East Room of the White House, Monday, May 10, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

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President Joe Biden speaks about the April jobs report in the East Room of the White House, Friday, May 7, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

"We are turning a corner," said Jeff Zients, the White House's COVID-19 response coordinator.

The improvements have also impacted Americans' concerns about the virus. The AP-NORC poll shows the public's worries about the pandemic are at their lowest level since February 2020, when the virus was first reaching the U.S. About half of Americans say they are at least somewhat worried that they or a relative could be infected with the virus, down from about 7 in 10 just a month earlier.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, there is a wide partisan gap in Americans' views of pandemic risks. Among Democrats, 69% say they remain at least somewhat worried about being infected with the virus, compared with just 33% of Republicans.

Despite the overall positive as-

sessments of Americans, Biden's advisers are well aware that the next phase of his presidency is potentially trickier. Vaccination rates have slowed, and the administration is grappling with how to persuade those who are reluctant to get the shots about their safety and efficacy.

Biden's legislative agenda for the rest of this year also faces obstacles on Capitol Hill. Republicans are resisting his calls for passing a sweeping infrastructure package, and there's insufficient support among Democrats for overhauling Senate rules in a way that would allow the party to tackle changes to immigration policy, gun laws and voting rights on its own.

There are also potential warning signs emerging on the economy after a strong start to the year. A new government report out Friday showed employers added just

266,000 jobs in April, sharply lower than in March and far fewer than economists had expected. The slowdown was attributed to a multitude of factors, including nearly 3 million people reluctant to look for work because they fear catching the virus. Some businesses — and Republican lawmakers — also argue that a \$300-a-week jobless benefit, paid for by the federal government, is discouraging some of the unemployed from taking new jobs.

Biden, however, argued that the report is an indication that more federal spending is needed to help bolster the economy. He's pitched to Congress a \$4 trillion package for spending on infrastructure, education and children, a measure many liberal Democrats say should be bigger and most Republicans argue is far too large.

"We never thought that after the

first 50 or 60 days everything would be fine," Biden said after Friday's job report was released. "There's more evidence our economy is moving in the right direction. But it's clear we have a long way to go." What's unclear is whether the employment slowdown will continue or how it will impact Americans' views of Biden's handling of the economy. Ahead of Friday's new jobs numbers, his approval rating on the economy stood at a solid 57%.

Compared with Biden's approval ratings on the pandemic, there is a starker partisan divide in views of his handling of the economy. Nearly all Democrats, 91%, back his economic stewardship, while just 19% of GOP voters do.

While the pandemic and the economy have dominated Biden's early months in office, other significant issues loom.

Immigration in particular has become a growing concern for the White House as it grapples with an increase in migration, including by unaccompanied minors, at the U.S. border with Mexico. Republicans have tried to tie the uptick to Biden's rollback of more stringent border policies enacted by his predecessor, Donald Trump.

Immigration is also among Biden's lowest-rated issues in the AP-NORC survey. Overall, 43% approve of his handling of the issue, while 54% disapprove.

The president also receives lower marks on gun policy, which has catapulted back to the forefront of the national debate following a string of mass shootings across the country. Americans are largely split over Biden's approach to the issue, with 48% approving and 49% disapproving.

The next phase of Biden's presidency is also likely to include more action on foreign policy. He announced that all U.S. troops will withdraw from Afghanistan by September, and American negotiators have resumed discussions with Iran on a new nuclear agreement. The White House has also signaled that Biden may hold his first in-person meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this summer.

Thus far, a slim majority of Americans, 54%, say they approve of Biden's foreign policy. □

U.S. restores transgender health protections denied by Trump

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government will protect gay and transgender people against sex discrimination in health care, the Biden administration declared Monday, reversing a Trump-era policy that narrowed rights at the intersection of changing social mores and sensitive medical decisions.

It marked the latest step by President Joe Biden to advance the rights of gay and transgender people across society, from military service, to housing, to employment opportunities.

The policy announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services affirms that federal laws forbidding sex discrimination in health care also protect gay and transgender people. The Trump administration had defined "sex" to mean gender assigned at birth, thereby excluding transgender people from the law's umbrella of protection.

"Fear of discrimination can lead individuals to forgo care, which can have serious negative health consequences," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Everyone — including LGBTQ people — should be able



In this Sunday, June 11, 2017 file photo, Equality March for Unity and Pride participants march past the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

to access health care, free from discrimination or interference, period."

Both opponents and supporters of Biden's action said it's likely to lead to litigation.

The American Medical Association said in a statement that the Biden administration "did the right thing" by ending "a dismal chapter which a federal agency sought to remove civil rights protections." But some conservatives warned that doctors could be forced to perform gender reassign-

ment procedures against their professional judgment.

Becerra said HHS will now be aligned with a landmark 6-3 Supreme Court decision last year in a workplace discrimination case, which established that federal laws against sex discrimination on the job also protect gay and transgender people. In a tweet at the time, then-President Donald Trump called the decision "horrible & politically charged." Undeterred by the ruling, his administration proceed-

ed to try to narrow protections against discrimination in health care.

But Biden early on in his term directed government agencies to apply the Supreme Court's reasoning to areas under their jurisdiction.

Monday's action means that the HHS Office for Civil Rights will again investigate complaints of sex discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Hospitals, clinics and other medical providers can face denial

of Medicare and Medicaid payments for violations of the law.

Since the Trump transgender rule had been blocked by a federal judge, the Biden administration action essentially restores a policy established during the Obama years. The Affordable Care Act prohibited sex discrimination in health care but did not use the term "gender identity." The Obama administration interpreted the law as shielding gay and transgender people as well.

Conservative lawyer Roger Severino, who as a former HHS official oversaw the drafting of the Trump rules, said the Biden administration cut corners in issuing its new policy.

"This is inflaming the culture wars, especially when you are trying to circumvent the process," said Severino, now at the Ethics and Public Policy Center think tank. Partly because of conflicting lower court rulings on the Trump and Obama policies, Becerra should have undertaken a formal rule-making, which can take months. "I expect lawsuits," Severino added.

But civil rights advocates said the Supreme Court's ruling on transgender protections essentially wiped the slate clean for Biden. □

Lafayette Square near the White House reopens to public

By AAMER MADHANI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lafayette Square, the park across from the White House, reopened Monday to the public nearly a year after federal authorities fenced off the area at the height of nationwide protests over policing following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The square, which offers perhaps the best view of the White House to the public, was closed after U.S. Park Police officers last June forcefully dispersed protesters who had gathered near the White House. The protesters were ejected from the square shortly before then-President Don-

ald Trump walked across the park to stand near St. John's Church to pose before cameras holding a Bible. The church had been damaged the night before Trump's photo-op, when a fire was set in the basement of the building during protests.

Fencing still surrounds the square named after the American Revolutionary War hero, but entryways on the northern side of the park were quietly opened to the public on Monday morning.

The U.S. Secret Service said in a statement it "is committed to balancing necessary security measures with the importance of

public access and view." The agency declined to comment on when, or if, it may remove the security fencing altogether.

Lafayette Square has long been one of the nation's most prominent venues for demonstrations.

Derek Chauvin, 45, the white Minneapolis police officer who was caught on video kneeling on the neck of Floyd for more than nine minutes, was convicted last month of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for the death of Floyd, who was Black.

The Justice Department last week announced that



From left, Eliana Lord, Carly Mihovich, Stephanie Justice, and Nick Hansen, visiting from Columbia, S.C., take a photo at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, after it reopens in a limited capacity in Washington, Monday, May 10, 2021.

Associated Press

Chauvin and three other former Minneapolis officers were indicted by a federal

grand jury on charges of violating the civil rights of Floyd. □

Watchdog says Capitol Police deficient at monitoring threats

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Capitol Police force was hobbled by inadequate intelligence gathering ahead of the Jan. 6 siege, the department's watchdog told Congress on Monday, alarming lawmakers who are concerned for their own safety amid rising threats against members of Congress.

Capitol Police Inspector General Michael Bolton testified in the first of three House hearings this week on what went wrong during the Jan. 6 insurrection. Lawmakers are investigating the riots as they contemplate overhauling security, and Bolton has recommended that the Capitol Police create a new stand-alone division that would gather intelligence about threats and protect members similar to the way the U.S. Secret Service protects the president.

Many lawmakers are receiving threats and worry for their safety after the U.S. Capitol was so easily breached on Jan. 6 by supporters of then-President Donald Trump who wanted to overturn the election. The rioters were hunting for law-



In this Jan. 6, 2021 file photo, Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

makers, calling out House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and then-Vice President Mike Pence by name as they roamed the building and members fled the House and Senate. In a statement Friday, the Capitol Police said that there has been a 107% increase in threats against members of Congress this year compared to 2020 and "provided the unique threat environment we currently live in, the Department is confident the

number of cases will continue to increase."

A new inspector general report, one of several Bolton is preparing in response to the insurrection, said the department "has experienced issues" because of the increase in threats over the last five years and recommended the force hire more agents who are dedicated to assessing threats. Bolton said there were multiple deficiencies that led to a lack of communica-

tion and guidance ahead of the siege.

"A stand-alone entity, with a defined mission dedicated to countersurveillance activities in support of protecting the Congressional Community, would improve the Department's ability to identify and disrupt individuals or groups intent on engaging in illegal activity directed at the Congressional Community and its legislative process," the report says, according

to a summary released by the House Administration Committee ahead of the hearing. Bolton has not released the full report.

Bolton told the panel that the Capitol Police is in the process of opening up two regional offices so it can better protect lawmakers at home. The department confirmed that on Monday, saying they will be opening up offices in San Francisco and Miami.

Illinois Rep. Rodney Davis, the top Republican on the committee, said he hopes they open up more offices around the country and prosecute more people who are making the threats. He noted that he has received threats himself — a man was arrested in 2019 for threatening to shoot him.

"So I know firsthand that these threats are real, and that the people making these threats intend to act on them," Davis said. "I do believe a truly more aggressive enforcement stance, more arrests and more prosecutions of those who make violent threats and intend to carry them out would be a very strong deterrent." □



In this Dec. 10, 2020, file photo, an electronic sign warns travelers to maintain social distance in the terminal of Denver International Airport in Denver.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Federal officials said Monday they are pursuing civil penalties against two more passengers for interfering with airline crews, the latest in a surge of such cases in recent months.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it is continuing to take a zero-tolerance stance against unruly

passengers.

The most recent cases involve a passenger who refused to wear a face mask, which is required by federal regulation, and another who cursed flight attendants and the captain after boarding a plane. The Federal Aviation Administration says it has received 1,300 complaints

FAA seeks fines against more misbehaving airline passengers

from airlines about disruptive passengers this year and has announced proposed civil penalties — some topping \$30,000 — against more than a dozen passengers in recent weeks. The passengers can protest the penalties.

The agency said Monday it will seek a \$10,500 fine against a passenger on a JetBlue Airways flight from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Los Angeles in December. The FAA said the man repeatedly ignored orders to wear a mask, then coughed and blew his nose into a blanket. The FAA proposed a \$9,000 fine against a passenger who boarded a JetBlue flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, in

March. The man slammed overhead bins and shouted profanities at flight attendants and the captain before law enforcement escorted him out of the terminal, the FAA said.

The new cases came just three days after the FAA announced potential fines against four other passengers. None of the individuals have been identified. Under its zero-tolerance policy announced in January, the FAA says it no longer warns or counsels unruly passengers, it jumps straight to enforcement action. The FAA has power to levy civil penalties but is letting law enforcement decide whether to seek criminal charges against passengers.

The FAA crackdown began around the time supporters of former President Donald Trump created disturbances on several flights to and from Washington. It was to remain in effect until late March, but the agency extended it when the Transportation Security Administration extended its requirement that passengers wear face masks through Sept. 13. The FAA says it started enforcement action against more than 1,300 passengers during the past 10 years.

U.S. airlines, which imposed their own face-mask requirements before the government did, have temporarily banned at least 3,000 people for refusing to cover their faces. □

Hamas fires rockets at Jerusalem after clashes at mosque

By ILAN BEN ZION and JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hamas militants fired a large barrage of rockets into Israel on Monday, including one that set off air raid sirens as far away as Jerusalem, after hundreds of Palestinians were hurt in clashes with Israeli police at a flashpoint religious site in the contested holy city.

The early evening attack drastically escalated what already are heightened tensions throughout the region following weeks of confrontations between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem that have threatened to become a wider conflict.

Shortly after the sirens sounded, explosions could be heard in Jerusalem. One rocket fell on the western outskirts of the city, lightly damaging a home and causing a brushfire. The Israeli army said there was an initial burst of seven rockets, one was intercepted, and rocket fire was continuing in southern Israel.

Gaza health officials said nine people, including three children, were killed in an explosion in the northern Gaza Strip. The cause of the blast was not immediately known. Meanwhile, Hamas media reported that an Israeli drone strike killed a Palestinian, also in the northern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said an Israeli civilian in the country's south suffered mild injuries when a vehicle was struck by an anti-tank missile from Gaza. Abu Obeida, spokesman for Hamas' military wing, said the attack was a response to what he called Israeli "crimes and aggression" in Jerusalem. "This is a message the enemy has to understand well," he said. He threatened more attacks if Israel again invades the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque compound or carries out planned evictions of Palestinian families from a neighborhood of east Jerusalem that have raised tensions.

Earlier, Israeli police firing tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets clashed with



Rockets are launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, Monday, May 10, 2021.

Associated Press

stone-throwing Palestinians at the iconic compound, which is Islam's third-holiest site and considered Judaism's holiest. Tensions at the site have been the trigger for prolonged bouts of violence in the past, including the last Palestinian intifada, or uprising. It was not clear if the current unrest would escalate or dissipate in the coming days.

More than a dozen tear gas canisters and stun grenades landed in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as police and protesters faced off inside the walled compound that surrounds it, said an Associated Press photographer at the scene. Smoke rose in front of the mosque and the iconic golden-domed shrine on the site, and rocks littered the nearby plaza. Inside one area of the compound, shoes and debris lay scattered over ornate carpets.

More than 305 Palestinians were hurt, including 228 who went to hospitals and clinics for treatment, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent. Seven of the injured were in serious condition. Police said 21 officers were hurt, including three who were hospitalized. Israeli paramedics said seven Israeli civilians were also hurt.

In an apparent attempt to avoid further confrontation, Israeli authorities changed the planned route of a march by ultranationalist Jews through the Muslim

Quarter of the Old City to mark Jerusalem Day, which celebrates Israel's capture of east Jerusalem.

Monday's confrontation was the latest after weeks of almost nightly clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops in the Old City of Jerusalem, the emotional center of their conflict, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The month tends to be a time of heightened religious sensitivities.

Most recently, the tensions have been fueled by the planned eviction of dozens of Palestinians from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of east Jerusalem where Israeli settlers have waged a lengthy legal battle to take over properties. Israel's Supreme Court postponed a key ruling Monday in the case, citing the "circumstances."

Over the past few days, hundreds of Palestinians and several dozen police officers have been hurt in clashes in and around the Old City, including the sacred compound, which is known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

An AP photographer at the scene said that early Monday morning, protesters had barricaded gates to the walled compound with wooden boards and scrap metal. Sometime after 7 a.m., clashes erupted, with those inside throwing stones at police deployed

outside.

Police entered the compound, firing tear gas, rubber-coated steel pellets and stun grenades, some of which entered the mosque.

Police said protesters hurled stones at officers and onto an adjoining roadway near the Western Wall, where thousands of Israeli Jews had gathered to pray.

The tensions in Jerusalem have threatened to reverberate throughout the region and come at a crucial point in Israel's political crisis after longtime leader Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition last week. His opponents are now working to build an alternate government.

Before Monday's rocket attack on Jerusalem, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Gaza, Palestinian militants had fired several barrages of rockets into southern Israel. Protesters allied with the ruling Hamas militant group have launched dozens of incendiary balloons into Israel, setting off fires across the southern part of the country. The rare strike on Jerusalem came moments after Hamas had set a deadline for Israel to remove its forces from the mosque compound and Sheikh Jarrah and release Palestinians detained in the latest clashes.

Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's

destruction, has fought three wars with Israel since it seized power in Gaza in 2007. The group possesses a vast arsenal of missiles and rockets capable of striking virtually anywhere in Israel. The rocket strike on Jerusalem was a significant escalation and raised the likelihood of a tough Israeli response. Israel's response thus far has come under growing international criticism.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled closed consultations on the situation Monday.

Late Sunday, the U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan spoke to his Israeli counterpart, Meir Ben-Shabbat. A White House statement said that Sullivan called on Israel to "pursue appropriate measures to ensure calm" and expressed the U.S.'s "serious concerns" about the ongoing violence and planned evictions.

Prime Minister Netanyahu pushed back against the criticism Monday, saying Israel is determined to ensure the rights of worship for all and that this "requires from time to time stand up and stand strong as Israeli police and our security forces are doing now."

The day began with police announcing that Jews would be barred from visiting the holy site on Jerusalem Day, which is marked with a flag-waving parade through the Old City that is widely perceived by Palestinians as a provocative display in the contested city.

Just as the parade was about to begin, police said they were altering the route at the instruction of political leaders. Several thousand people, many of them from Jewish settlements in the West Bank, were participating. In the 1967 Mideast war in which Israel captured east Jerusalem, it also took the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It later annexed east Jerusalem and considers the entire city its capital. The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future state, with east Jerusalem as their capital. □

French admiral: Air power helps root out 'underground' IS

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (AP) — The Islamic State group is using stealth to regenerate its forces by developing its military capabilities underground, and France is deploying its warships and aircraft in the region to help troops on the ground root out the threat, a senior French naval officer said Monday.

Rear Adm. Marc Aussedat, who leads a task force centered around France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, said that 18 advanced Rafale fighter aircraft are carrying out reconnaissance flights in Syrian and Iraqi airspace to gauge the actions of IS, and to bring their weapons to bear if necessary.

"Why are we doing this mission? ... First of all, is to give to these forces, coalition and Iraqi security forces, the means to fight the regeneration of Daesh on the ground. Daesh is hiding, Daesh is developing its capacity underground," Aussedat told reporters, referring to the Islamic State group's Arabic-language acronym.



A French crew member stands on France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle at Limassol port, Cyprus, Monday May 10, 2021.

Associated Press

France's regional military muscle-flexing has manifested itself in Task Force 473, a naval force of several warships including anti-submarine frigates and an air defense destroyer that's centered around the De Gaulle.

The country already has a frigate deployed in the east Mediterranean on a permanent basis.

The primary mission of the task force's five-month deployment in the east Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean is to assist Operation Inherent Resolve, a U.S.-led mission of forces from several countries tasked with eradicating IS remnants following its three-year occupation of large swaths of Syrian and Iraqi territory.

Aussedat said the French task force has also helped in the fight against piracy and international trafficking in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean where it temporarily took command of Task Force 50, a U.S. naval force led by the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower, to help build trust and cooperation between the two navies.

According to Aussedat, the deployment also aimed to project French power and to "show the French flag" in regions where the country has "strategic interests" including the eastern Mediterranean. French energy company Total, along with Italian partner Eni, is licensed to drill for oil and gas off Cyprus.

"The presence in these areas is made to prevent and to fight for stability, for the freedom of navigation, for our freedom of action and of course the interests of France but also of the partners which are linked with us," Aussedat said.

"It's also a way to ensure our ability to appreciate, to assess the situation on a national basis, but also a European basis or on a NATO basis to prevent crises, but also to intervene if necessary."

Those partners include a Belgian and Greek frigate, as well as a U.S. destroyer that had earlier joined the task force. The French task force will end its deployment with a joint exercise in the western Mediterranean with U.K. aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth. □

Man shot to death at Vancouver's airport in gang incident

RICHMOND, British Columbia (AP) — A 28-year-old man was fatally shot Sunday at the Vancouver International Airport in what Canadian authorities said was a gang-related slaying. Police were later fired on while pursuing the suspects.

The man was shot near the departure terminal at the airport, which is in neighboring Richmond, British Columbia. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Frank Jang said the victim was known to police and the incident was related to a gang conflict the region has seen lately.

"This generation of gangsters is taking things to a new level with no regard to community safety,"

Richmond Chief Supt. Will Ng said. "They will stop at nothing to target rivals even if it's at an international airport in broad daylight on Mother's Day. And they shot at a police officer."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said officers intercepted the suspected getaway car shortly after the 3 p.m. shooting and were shot at from the car. At least two suspects escaped in the SUV, and no officers were injured. Police said the officer did not return fire as there were bystanders. Police later found a burning car about 28 kilometers (17 miles) away. At the airport, traffic cones blocked off a section of the international

and domestic departure areas and police erected tall, white screens in front of an entrance, blocking views of the shooting scene. Most of the shops in the area were shut down. Police asked for witnesses and those with video to come forward.

The Vancouver Airport Authority referred questions about the shooting to police. It said the airport remained open.

Federal Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said in a statement on Twitter that the shooting was disturbing. "My thoughts are with the communities in the Lower Mainland who have been impacted by gun and gang violence far too often, particularly over the



Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers search around rows of luggage carts as screens block off an area of the sidewalk after a shooting outside the international departures terminal at Vancouver International Airport, in Richmond, British Columbia, Sunday, May 9, 2021.

Associated Press

last week," Blair said. There has been a string of shootings in the Vancouver area over the last several days, including two separate daytime shooting deaths in busy shopping malls. Police said both were targeted killings. One

of the victims was a prison corrections officer.

"We're tired of seeing the violence that has been taking place on our streets," Jang said. "There comes a time where there are no further words. ... It's falling on deaf ears." □

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EXPLAINER: Why are people protesting across Colombia?

By ASTRID SUÁREZ and REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia (AP) — Thousands of Colombians have protested across the country against a government they feel has long ignored their needs, allowed corruption to run rampant and is so out of touch that it proposed tax increases during the coronavirus pandemic. Despite virus lockdown orders, protesters have turned out in more than half of Colombia's municipalities since last week for mostly peaceful protest against the administration of President Iván Duque. But violence during some demonstrations has resulted in 26 people dead, including a police officer, and more than 800 people injured, according to government figures.

Human rights organizations have denounced numerous police abuses and give a higher death toll, while the international community is calling for dialogue.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE PROTESTING?

The protests started on April 28 over proposed tax increases on public services, fuel, wages and pensions, but it has morphed into a general demand for the government to pay long-standing debts to the most vulnerable in society, such as Indigenous and Afro Latino people. Even though the administration withdrew the tax reform, protests have continued and grown as reports emerged of police violence, deaths and disappearances.

Activists see a link between the current protests and demonstrations in November 2019 over a host of issues: earlier tax increases, the murder of social lead-



Christians kneel in prayer asking for the violence during anti-government protests to stop, in Bolívar Square in Bogotá, Colombia, Saturday, May 8, 2021.

Associated Press

ers, official corruption, inequality and compliance with a peace agreement that led to the 2016 demobilization of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The discontent expressed in 2019 festered throughout the coronavirus pandemic as people saw their livelihoods disappear, their friends and family members die of COVID-19 and the government struggle to respond. Their anger has now spilled again onto the streets.

Protesters have at times erected roadblocks that officials say have led to food shortages, prevented vaccine deliveries and blocked ambulances.

HOW HAS THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED?

Defense Minister Diego Molano said security forces have tried to protect those who are peacefully demonstrating as well as those who chose to stay home. The military has sometimes joined police since Duque on May 1 signed off on

armed forces' involvement until "the acts of serious alteration of public order cease." That allows mayors to request the army's presence in urban areas — a move questioned by human rights observers.

"International (human rights) standards require limiting as much as possible the use of the (military) to control internal disturbances. The soldiers are trained for armed conflict, not for citizen security," said José Miguel Vivanco, director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch.

Duque on Thursday invited union leaders to talks. How far the dialogue can go is unclear, however, as public frustration with his government predates the now-withdrawn tax reform.

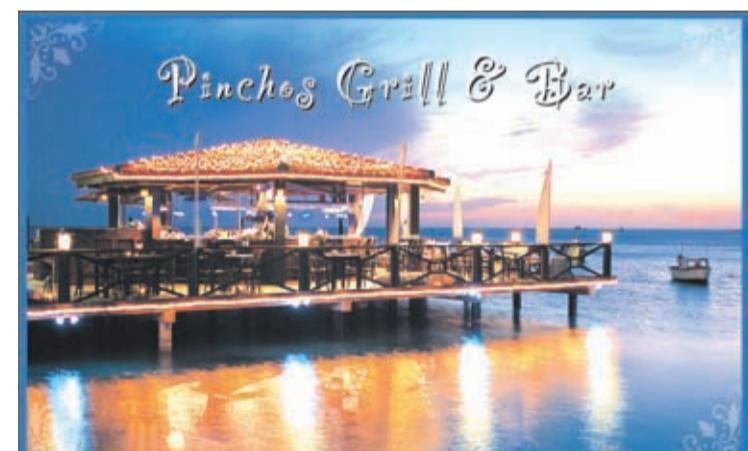
WHY HAVE SOME PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT?

The government contends that rebel groups have infiltrated protests and drug-trafficking enterprises are subsidizing demonstrations. Duque has even classified the actions as "low-intensi-

ty terrorism."

However, leaders of the demonstrations say security forces have been exceedingly violent and the government is stigmatizing protesters. The epicenter of the demonstrations as well as the violence has been the southwestern city of Cali, where movements of peasants and Indigenous and Afro Latino people converge. In Cali, there is a "historical accumulation of social discontent, anger and rebellion," said sociologist Rosembert Ariza at the National University of Colombia.

"It is a politically cultured city, and it may sound contradictory, but the exercise of violence is nothing but the response to the violence they are receiving." □



LOCAL



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Current numbers

There are currently 96 active Covid cases on the island. 85 residents and 11 non-residents. There are 9 persons hospitalized of which 6 of them are in the Intensive care unit. 101 persons lost their battle against the Covid virus of which 1 of them is a non-resident. A total of 142.422 persons have been tested of which 104.281 were tested at the airport. 56% of the total population have been vaccinated. Aiming for 85% of the total population by end of June 2021.

Measurement by the Government of Aruba

Valid as of Monday May 10th, 2021 until further notice.

- Curfew is from 12 midnight to 4.30am.
- Closing time for businesses is 11pm.
- Max eight (8) per table indoors & max ten (10) per table outdoors (excluding children under the age of 12) Tables must be at least 1.5 meters apart.
- During live performance 5 musicians are allowed to perform on stage.
- No musical events that are intended to attract customers.
- Background music is allowed/No dancing.
- Hotels and lodgings are exempted from the closing time, BUT only to serve their registered guests between 12am and 4.30am.
- Casinos are not part of the exemption and must close at 11pm.
- There is no more public gathering ban but people must still wear masks and social distance when required.
- Beaches and public parking lots remain restricted zones and nobody is allowed on them between 7:30pm to 4.30am. □

More information on travel and health requirements can be found on www.aruba.com.

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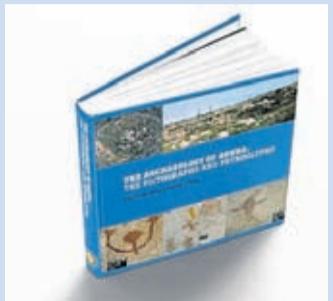
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Pictograms are very valuable

ORANJESTAD - Recently, the National Archaeological Museum of Aruba (MANA) has noticed an increased interest in the archaeological sites with pictograms or petroglyphs.



More and more people are enjoying our nature by walking, exploring and visiting archaeological sites. MANA is pleased to note that interest in the 2019 catalog of pictograms in Aruba has increased. It is important for everyone who loves Aruba to protect and preserve our wildlife and cultural heritage.

Visiting archaeological sites with pictograms on rocks is something unique, as you can see the expressions of our antecedents. This experience is not comparable in other locations where you can hardly see the drawings on the rocks. If you enjoy petroglyphs or icons, you should realize that these drawings were made by our ancestors over a thousand years ago in the exact same location where you stand. These locations have been specifically selected by our ancestors and will spark our imagination many years later. So far the meaning of the drawings is unclear. Archaeological sites with pictograms will not last forever, because they are very fragile. Erosion and other natural causes and human intervention have resulted in many of the icons decaying and fading. That is why the MANA is emphasizing that only together can we protect and preserve our heritage. Many depend on the goodwill of the community, and fortunately, many people and entities help pro-

tect and preserve the archaeological sites. In many cases, these individuals and entities contact MANA when they find archaeological objects or sites, such as when digging foundations for houses, digging a swimming pool or building roads. The fact that some archaeological sites were unknown was a good one, as they were not exposed to human intervention. The MANA noted that recently many social media posts showed an icon that is getting more and more attention. They expressed concern about the damage caused and the waste left behind at this location. MANA has been pushing for years to enact a protection law for these archaeological sites, but this has never materialized. It is important to note that although some archaeological sites are protected with steel and / or monitoring at the sites, vandalism can still be seen in these sites. That's why the MANA spends so much time educating the community about Indigenous history and its importance. MANA exhibition is free of charge and open from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

MANA invites those concerned about damage to an archaeological site in Aruba to contact the MANA archaeological experts at 582-8979 or by email dir.manaw@gmail.com. □

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Elements Restaurant Present Aruba's only Authentic Aruban & Caribbean Buffet
A feast of traditional Aruban and Caribbean flavors and ingredients
overlooking one of the most spectacular beaches in the world

EAGLE BEACH — Elements Restaurant, located at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, proudly reveals its Authentic Aruban & Caribbean Buffet, available every Monday through Saturday from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM for \$24.50 per person. On Sundays the restaurant continues with its famous Sunday Brunch.

"We wanted to create an authentic Aruban menu that, with each bite, will take you back-in-time to your childhood home. We want you to relive the nostalgic flavors of the stews and desserts your parents and grandparents prepared. For our international customers, we want them to enjoy a traditional and culturally enrich dining experience." Ewald Biemans, owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, explains.

Executive Chef Marc Giesbers, Director of Food and Beverage, and his team of local & Caribbean chefs have been working hard and testing out different dishes to reimagine your lunch dining experience. The rotating menu has everything



from local cornbread to polenta sticks, plantains, corn patties, Aruban ceviche, seafood salad, sulz, pickled pork, blood sausage, cucumber or papaya stoba, beef or chicken stews, fish or chicken soup, jerk chicken, Caribbean seafood paella, a pasta station, and a dessert tasting of flan, cashew cake, local fruit cake, and much more! "Our team is incredibly diverse, and our buffet assortment highlights this. Besides our traditional



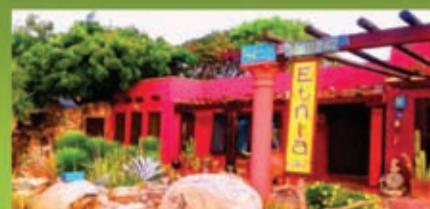
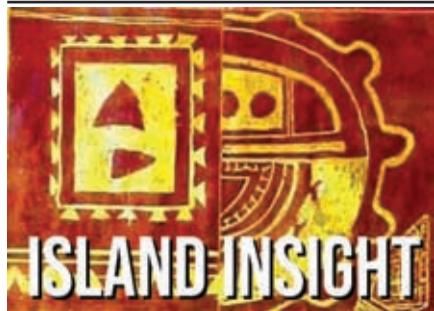
local dishes made by our Aruban chefs and cooks, we also offer various Caribbean dishes created by our Jamaican, Dominican, Haitian, Colombian, and Venezuelan chefs and cooks. Each chef or cook concentrates on making an authentic dish from their region, highlighting the delightful palettes they remember from infancy." Chef Marc explains. "It is also important to us to support our local farmers as much as possible. Our assortment rotates to include ingredients that are in season, and we source as much as we can locally or from nearby regions." 1 The award-winning and adults-only beachfront restaurant will also continue to offer their regular a-la-carte menus, which cater to all dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free diets.

Don't forget that the restaurant also offers its ultra romantic private dinners for two in one of their famous beach cabanas. Guests can enjoy their meal and a Caribbean cocktail or mocktail overlooking the spectacular Eagle Beach on

Elements' outdoor seating deck. Reservations are recommended and be mindful that the restaurant does not seat groups larger than six persons and does not take cash (all major credit and debit cards are accepted).

For reservations, please visit www.elementsaruba.com or call +297 583 1100. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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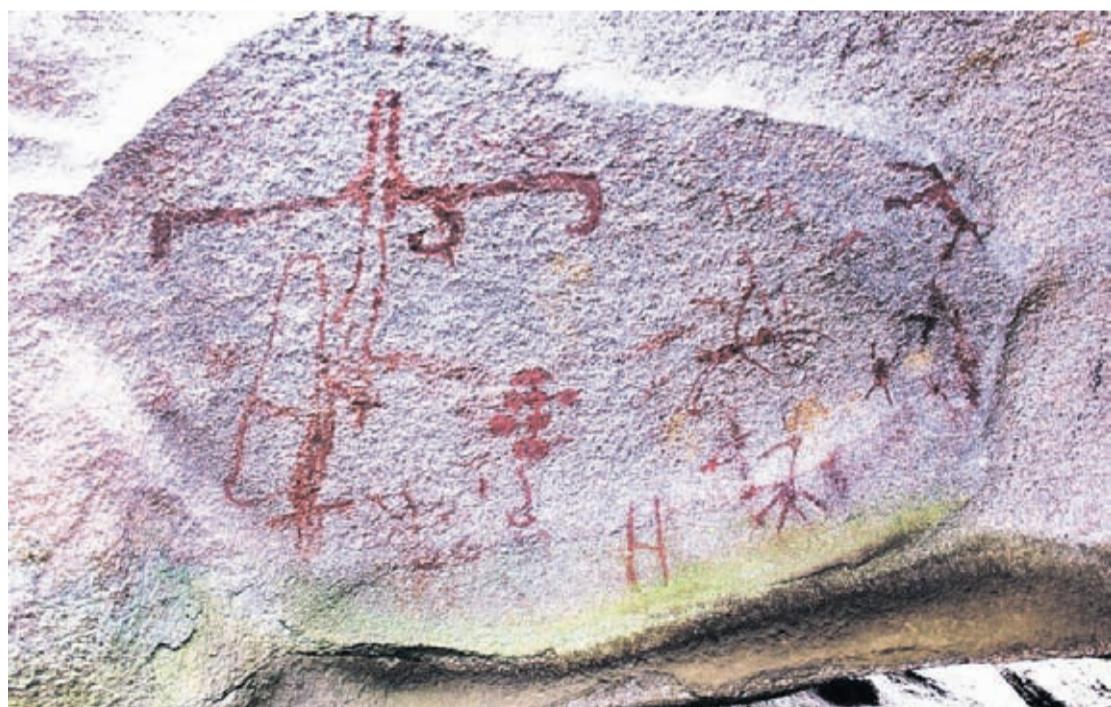
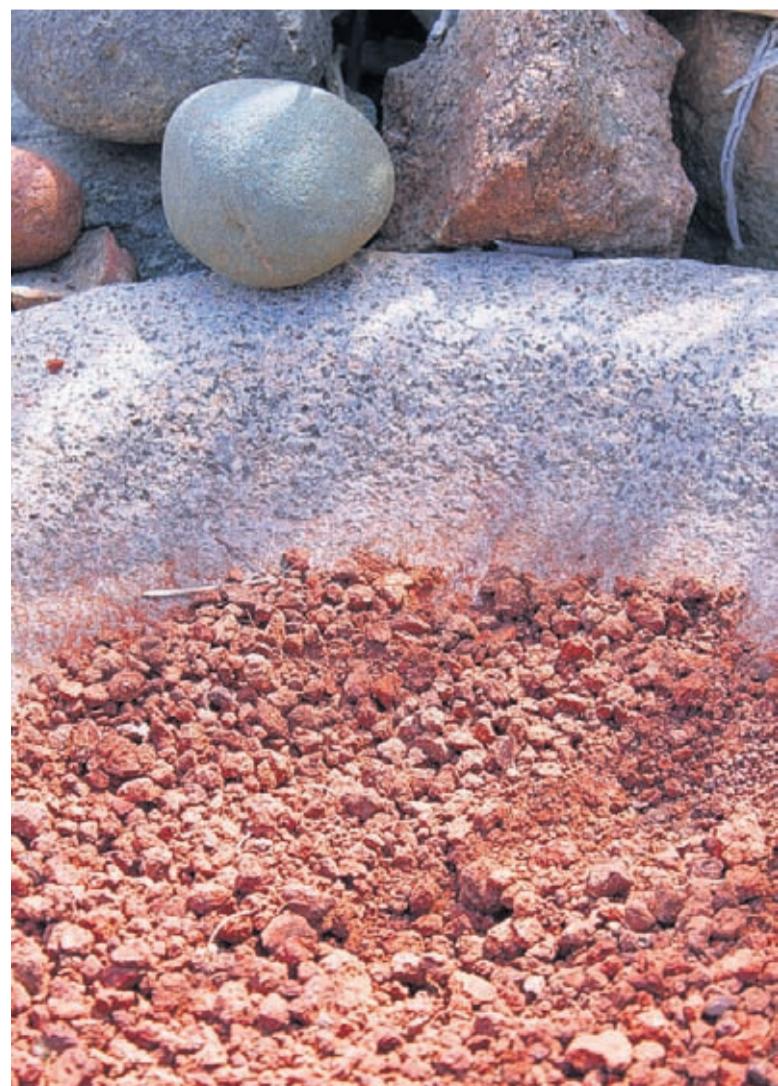
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Ocher

NOORD — Ochre, or ochre in American English, is a natural clay earth pigment which is a mixture of ferric oxide and varying amounts of clay and sand and is the first pigment known to have been used for painting by different cultures around the world. The natural pigments of the earth consist of three parts: the color-producing component, the modifying component and the base or carrier of the color (almost always clay, a degraded product of silicate rocks).

When we think of ochre we think of the color red but it is a natural yellow mineral pigment, which consists of clay, siliceous materials and the hydrated form of iron oxide known as limonite, which is the fundamental component of ochre earths. Other natural forms of earth pigments related to ochre include sienna, which is similar to yellow ochre but warmer and more translucent in color; and amber, which has goethite as its main component and incorporates various levels of manganese. Red oxides or red ochre are forms of yellow ochre rich in hematite, which are commonly formed from the natural aerobic weathering of iron-containing minerals. Ocher is very common in archaeological sites around the world. The first possible use of ochre discovered so far is from a *Homo erectus* site about 285,000 years old. At the site in Kenya's Kapthurin Formation, a total of five kilograms (11 pounds) of ochre was discovered in more than 70 pieces. 250,000-200,000 years ago, Neanderthals used ochre at the Maastricht Belvédère site in the Nether-



lands (Roebroeks) and the Benzú rock refuge in Spain. Ocher was part of the earliest art that the Stone Age man had practiced in Africa. The earliest 100,000-year-old modern human assemblages, such as at the Blombos Cave and Klein Kliphuis in South Africa, rock art as well as stone have been found which includes examples of etched ochre, ochre slabs with carved patterns deliberately cut into the surface. In 2014 the Spanish paleontologist Carlos Duarte suggested that the use of red ochre as a pigment in tattoos (otherwise ingested) may have had a role in human evolution, as it would have been a source of iron directly to the human brain,

perhaps Ocher applied on granite surface by native Aruban cultures. Here we can see the part of Weburi's rock art at Piedra Plat. □

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades.

Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

Episode CIV 104

You may be entitled to free health insurance now

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

The latest coronavirus relief package did more than dole out \$1,400 checks. The law also made health insurance free for millions more people and reduced costs for others, at least for now. The American Rescue Plan, which President Joe Biden signed in March, expanded subsidies for people buying their own insurance on Affordable Care Act exchanges. In addition, anyone who receives unemployment benefits this year can qualify for zero-premium health insurance through the exchanges, regardless of income.

In fact, many people who are currently uninsured will qualify for free or low-cost coverage through the exchanges or Medicaid, says Daniel McDermott, a policy analyst with KFF, the nonpartisan health care think tank formerly known as the Kaiser Family Foundation.

People who lost their jobs but want to keep their former employer's health insurance also may get help. If you don't qualify for group health insurance elsewhere, the federal government will pay your COBRA premiums for up to six months.

MILLIONS QUALIFY FOR FREE ACA COVERAGE

Since 2013, ACA exchanges have allowed people to buy individual and family health insurance policies,



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

NerdWallet via Associated Press

usually with tax credits that reduced their premiums and other costs. ACA has four levels: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Bronze plans typically have the lowest monthly premiums and the highest deductibles; platinum plans have the highest premiums and the lowest deductibles. Before the new relief package, people with incomes greater than 400% of the federal poverty level typically didn't qualify for subsidies to reduce their premiums. Now people with incomes up to 600% of the poverty level up to

\$76,560 for a single person or \$157,200 for a family of four can qualify, according to KFF. (KFF's calculator can show you how much you'd likely pay for ACA coverage.) The relief package reduced premiums for the vast majority of people who buy their own insurance, McDermott says. In addition, nearly half of the 29 million currently uninsured now qualify for a free plan, he says. Those with incomes below 250% of the poverty line also will benefit from reduced cost-sharing, which means lower deductibles

and other out-of-pocket costs. At 150% of the poverty line — income of about \$19,000 for a single person and just under \$40,000 for a family of four — people qualify for zero-premium silver plans with annual deductibles of just \$177.

Millions of unemployed people will be eligible for similar coverage. Anyone who receives unemployment benefits for any part of 2021 can qualify for a zero-premium silver plan with the maximum cost-sharing reductions, McDermott says. "For all intents and purposes, the health insurance exchanges are going to look at you as if your income was under 150% of poverty level," he says.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR ACA SUBSIDIES

The expansion of Affordable Care Act subsidies is retroactive to Jan. 1 and will continue through Dec. 31, 2022. People must purchase their insurance from Healthcare.gov or their state's ACA exchange to qualify for subsidies. The act also created a new special enrollment period that extends through Aug. 15, 2021.

Some people still don't qualify for subsidies, including most people with incomes above 600% of the poverty line; undocumented immigrants; people who have offers of employer-provided health insurance that's considered affordable; and certain low-in-

come people in states that haven't expanded Medicaid coverage.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FREE COBRA COVERAGE

Many people prefer to keep their employer's health insurance coverage when they lose their jobs, although the cost is often prohibitive. Most employers pay a large portion of the cost to cover workers, but former employees who opt to extend their coverage using the federal COBRA law typically must pay the full premium plus a 2% administrative fee.

Thanks to the new law, employers are required to provide free COBRA coverage from April 1 through Sept. 30 to eligible former employees who lost their health care coverage because of involuntary termination or a reduction in hours, says financial planner and certified public accountant Kelley Long, consumer financial education advocate for the American Institute of CPAs. The employers' cost will be offset by federal tax credits.

If you're eligible for other group health coverage — through a spouse, new employer or Medicare, for example — you won't qualify for free COBRA.

"The intention is to help people who have no other options and would otherwise be uninsured because they can't afford COBRA," Long says. □

Americans set another pandemic-era record for air travel



In this Wednesday, March 17, 2021 file photo, travelers walk through the Salt Lake City International Airport in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Americans set a record for pandemic-era air travel, then broke it again over the Mother's Day holiday weekend.

The Transportation Security Administration said that slightly more than 1.7 million people were screened at airport checkpoints on Sunday, the highest number since March 2020, when travel was collapsing because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Sunday's mark was about 4,500 more than the previous record, set just two days earlier.

However, those crowds were still far smaller than before the pandemic. Sunday's TSA count was down 29% from the comparable Sunday two years ago, according to TSA.

Air travel has been rising slowly for more than a year since hitting bottom in mid-April 2020. The numbers had leveled off recently, but with the busy weekend, the 7-day moving average of U.S. air travelers surpassed the period around the Easter holiday and also set a pandemic-era high.

Airlines say most of the people on flights now are leisure travelers going to destinations within the United States. International travelers entering the U.S. are required to show proof of a negative test for COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said recently travelers can meet that requirement with federally approved home-testing kits, potentially making international travel a little easier. □

New White House panel aims to separate science, politics

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ea-

ger to turn the page on the Trump years, the Biden White House is launching

CROSSWORD

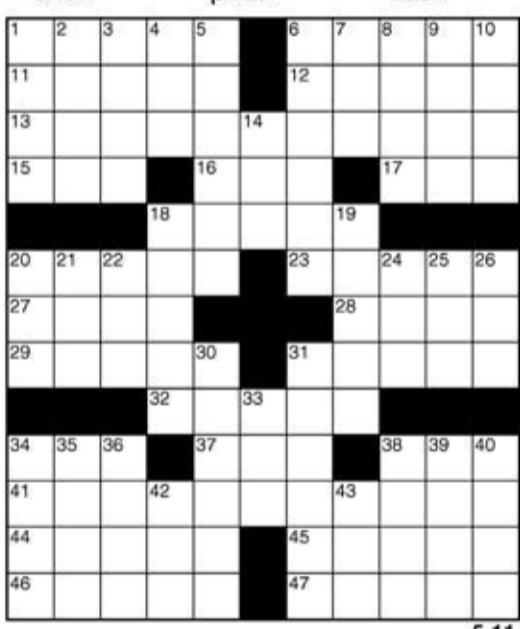
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Swiss cheese features
- 6 Jeans material
- 11 Grownup
- 12 Came up
- 13 Music category
- 15 Attempt
- 16 Gentle pull
- 17 Hoop attachment
- 18 Gym exercise
- 20 Volume-based
- 23 Remove, as a spill
- 27 Mile or meter
- 28 Existence
- 29 Gets some shut-eye
- 31 Stately home
- 32 Home of urban alligators, perhaps
- 34 Inquire
- 37 Pulled off
- 38 Beat walker
- 41 Throw a tantrum
- 44 Visitor from afar
- 45 Prying tool
- 46 Software test versions
- 47 Wield, as power



Yesterday's answer



5-11

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

L M K B X X W U K N B X V M

B X T U N A X V C X U A J L M B K K M Y U

A U. K W X P M R X B U A W X P W M E

X W U J A D M G B U M , A U

W Y Y G M E E M E . — K B G J Q C X V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU, WORDS AND IDEAS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. — ROBIN WILLIAMS



In this Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump talks with reporters after receiving a briefing on Hurricane Dorian in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington.

Associated Press

an effort to unearth past problems with the politicization of science within government and to tighten scientific integrity rules for the future. A new 46-person federal scientific integrity task force with members from more than two dozen government agencies will meet for the first time on Friday. Its mission is to look back through 2009 for areas where partisanship interfered with what were supposed to be decisions based on evidence and research and to come up with ways to keep politics out of government science in the future.

The effort was spurred by concerns that the Trump administration had politicized science in ways that put lives at risk, eroded public trust and worsened climate change.

"We want people to be able to trust what the federal government is telling you, whether it's a weather forecast or information about vaccine safety or whatever," said Jane Lubchenco, the deputy director for climate and environment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

People need to know "it's not by fiat, somebody's sort of knee-jerk opinion about something," added Alondra Nelson, the science office's deputy director for science and society. Nelson and Lubchenco spoke to The Associated Press ahead of a Monday announcement about the task force's first meeting and part of its composition. It stems from a Jan.

said Alabama was in danger. The matter became known as Sharpiegate after someone in the White House used a black Sharpie a favorite pen of Trump's to alter the official National Hurricane Center warning map to indicate Alabama could be in the path of the storm. A 2020 inspector general report found the administration had violated scientific integrity rules. The Sharpiegate case revealed flaws in the scientific integrity system set up in 2009 by President Barack Obama, Lubchenco said. There were no consequences when the agency violated the rules, Lubchenco said. Nor were there consequences for NOAA's parent Cabinet agency, the Commerce Department. That's why President Joe Biden's administration is calling for scientific integrity rules throughout government and not just in science-oriented agencies, she said. Lubchenco said a reluctance to fight climate change in the last four years has delayed progress in cutting emissions of heat-trapping gases. "That will inevitably result in the problem being worse than it needed to be," she said.

"What we have seen in the last administration is that the suppression of science, the reassignment of scientists, the distortion of scientific information around climate change was not only destructive but counterproductive and really problematic," Lubchenco said. Kelvin Droegemeier, who served as Trump's science adviser, in an email repeated what he told Congress in his confirmation hearing: "Integrity in science is everything," and science should be allowed to be done "in an honest way, full of integrity without being encumbered by political influence."

Droegemeier said the White House science office, where Nelson and Lubchenco now work and where he used to be, is more about policy and does not have the authority to investigate or enforce rules. □

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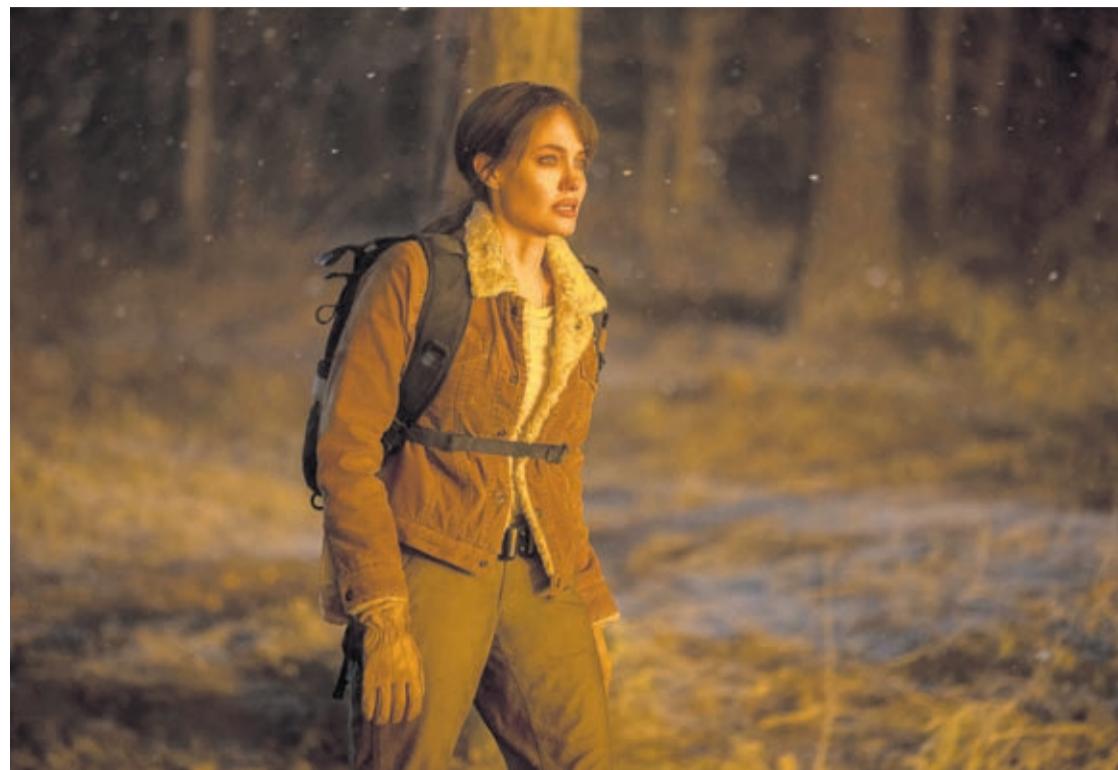
Angelina Jolie lets Taylor Sheridan drag her through hell

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Sheridan, initially brought on to rewrite the mountain thriller "Those Who Wish Me Dead," gradually got more invested in the movie. When another filmmaker dropped out, he called the studio with an offer.

"I said if I can get Angie to do this with me, I'll direct it for you," Sheridan says. "They said, 'Great. You'll never get Angie.'"

The skepticism on the part of Warner Bros. executives was warranted. Angelina Jolie, whose priorities have centered on filmmaking, international work and family, hasn't starred in a live-action film in six years. Over the last decade, her only leading performances have been two "Maleficent" movies and "By the Sea," which she directed and starred in alongside then-husband Brad Pitt. But Sheridan's timing was right. Jolie, going through a painful and protracted divorce, was more interested in a quicker, simpler role on set. And the part of a Montanan smoke jumper haunted by trauma and guilt, was potentially cathartic.

"We all have times in our lives where we are broken. And we grieve and we're not sure we have anything left in us," Jolie said in an interview by Zoom from Los Angeles. "I identified more with a part of her that didn't feel she could do a lot, and hadn't done this in a long time. To be in this situation and have a director that is both sensitive and aware



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Angelina Jolie in a scene from "Those Who Wish Me Dead."

Associated Press

of the human experience, to go there and to feel it, but also to push you to find your strength and move forward."

"It was really what I needed at that time," says Jolie.

"Those Who Wish Me Dead," which will open on May 14 in theaters and on HBO Max, is an anomaly for other reasons, too. It's a star-led genre film not based on well-known intellectual property made by a major studio. (The film is based on Michael Koryta's 2014 book.) Like Sheridan's previous films — "To Hell or High Water," "Sicario" (both of which he wrote) and "Wind River" (which Sheridan wrote and directed), it's a tale of blood and justice across a vast and vio-

lent American landscape. "To sound like a millennial, it's very on-brand for me," says Sheridan, chuckling. "But what's unique is we made this at a studio. This is a studio film and they trusted us to go do this. We made it like a '70s movie. They promoted it like a '70s movie. The biggest 21st century element is the fact that you'll be able to stream it or go to the theater."

In "Those Who Wish Me Dead," Jolie's Hannah Faber encounters a 12-year-old boy (Finn Little) in the wilderness who's fleeing two assassins. It was shot in New Mexico in May and June 2019 — a month after Jolie and Pitt were ruled legally single by a court. (A custody battle over their six

children is ongoing.) Snow was still falling in the mountains. Aside from the natural environs, Sheridan erected a faux forest and set it aflame. Jolie, an action star in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," "Salt" and "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," performed many of her stunts. Sheridan, accustomed to making films close to the land, had little luxury to offer beyond space heaters in tents and lavish, overbudget craft services. He cheerfully recalls the experience as miserable.

"You know, the character sort of drags Angie through emotional hell, and then I drug her through physical hell," Sheridan says from a remote lakeside quarantine in Ontario. "That's how

we made the movie." "And I loved every minute of it," Jolie says, smiling. Jolie will next be seen in Marvel's "Eternals," by "Nomadland" director Chloé Zhao — another filmmaker drawn to fresh tales on old American frontiers. It's been an unexpected break from directing for Jolie, who last helmed 2017's Cambodian genocide drama "First They Killed My Father."

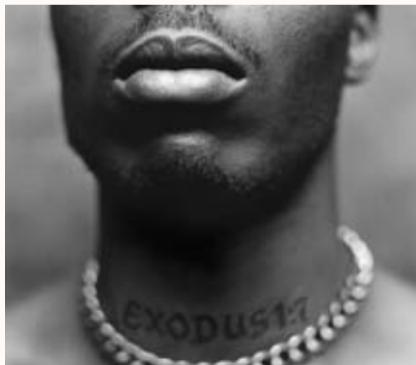
"I prefer directing but acting gives me more time at home," says Jolie. "It's less of a commitment."

Yet, if anything, the chances of such performances are getting slimmer. The pandemic, says the 45-year-old Jolie, has been a time of reevaluation — and movies are a diminishing priority.

"I was kind of spending more time at home regardless because of different family reasons. But if I was before spending half my time on my international work, I think I'll now be spending 80% of my time on this other work. I'll be doing less film work. Not quitting anything but a lot less," says Jolie. "I've mentally shifting into a different time in my life."

Jolie has been a special envoy to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since 2012. She applauds President Joe Biden's recent expansion of U.S. refugee admissions but sees a global crisis only worsening, especially as countries struggling from the pandemic pull back on foreign aid. □

'X Gon' Give It to Ya': New DMX album out on May 28



This image released by Def Jam shows "Exodus," by DMX, releasing on May 28.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A new album from DMX will be released later this month.

DMX's longtime producer and collaborator, Grammy winner Swizz Beatz, announced on Monday that "EXODUS" will feature new material and drop on May 28.

"My brother X was one of the most pure and rare souls I've ever met. He lived his life dedicated to his family and music. Most of all, he was generous with his giving and loved his fans beyond mea-

sure. This album, X couldn't wait for his fans all around the world to hear and show just how much he valued each and every single person that has supported him unconditionally," Swizz Beatz said in a statement.

The posthumous album will be released on Def Jam, where DMX released most of his albums and made music history. The Grammy-nominated performer's first five albums all debuted at No. 1 on the all-genre Billboard 200 albums chart. His hits include "Get

at Me Dog," "Ruff Ryders' Anthem," "Party Up (Up in Here)" and "X Gon' Give It to Ya."

DMX, whose birth name was Earl Simmons, died last month at age 50. His life and legacy was celebrated at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, where Kanye West, Nas, Busta Rhymes and members of DMX's Ruff Ryders collective — Swizz Beatz, Eve, The Lox — attended and spoke highly of the rapper.

His last album, "Undisputed," was released in 2012. □

Alex Cejka wins Regions Tradition playoff over Stricker

By JOHN ZENOR

AP Sports Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —

With a big comeback and an even bigger putt, Alex Cejka ensured he won't have to wait or play his way into events for a while.

Cejka won the Regions Tradition on Sunday in only his third PGA Tour Champions start, beating defending champion Steve Stricker with a birdie on the first hole of a playoff to earn a full exemption for the next two seasons.

A childhood refugee from communist Czechoslovakia, the 50-year-old Cejka made a 10-foot birdie putt on No. 18 and Stricker missed an 8-footer with a chance to extend the playoff at Greystone Golf & Country Club.

"It's incredible. I still can't believe it. I have no words," said Cejka, who made the field as first alternate when Jay Haas withdrew on Monday. "I fought so hard.

"We work so hard. I think it's everybody's dream to win trophies and I did it on this tour."

Cejka had turned a three-stroke deficit into a two-shot lead over the final nine holes for a 5-under 67. His winning putt was from a similar spot to the one Stricker made for birdie in regulation to force the playoff.

Stricker, who won the last time the event was held in 2019, closed with a 68 to match Cejka at 18-under 270.



Alex Cejka, of Germany, reacts after defeating Steve Stricker on the first hole of a playoff after the final round of the Regions Tradition PGA Tour Champions golf tournament Sunday, May 9, 2021, in Hoover, Ala.

Associated Press

"I'm proud of the way I kind of fought back and battled back to get into the playoff," Stricker said. "Just not making enough putts yet is the bottom line. ... Just not making enough of the putts that I'm accustomed to making. So that's the disappointing part."

Cejka expected Stricker to match him with birdie.

"You know what, for 99% I thought he was going to make it (in the playoff) and I knew I had to make it to have a chance to go into an extra hole," Cejka said.

"It was a pretty straight putt. "He had this putt to go into the playoff, just a little bit longer. And I watched him. It was that straight, so I played it that straight and it never moved."

Cejka finished tied for second behind Stricker at the Chubb Classic as a Monday qualifier.

He fled his home country with his father at age 9, escaping by foot and train and even swimming and bicycle.

"I'm one of the thousands, millions of people who

have a dream and got it done," Cejka said.

Swede Robert Karlsson was third at 14 under after a 69 as the top three final threesome played all day without much of a threat from the pack. He finished with a 69.

Ernie Els (66) and Jerry Kelly (70) finished at 11 under. Two-time champion Bernhard Langer closed with a 71 to finish at 9 under with David McKenzie.

Cejka's only bogey came on the first hole of the day. A four-time winner on the

European Tour, he won the 2015 Puerto Rico Open for his lone PGA Tour victory.

Cejka kept playing through the COVID-19 pandemic, winning twice on the Arizona-based Outlaw Tour. Now he's fully exempt for the rest of this season and all of 2022, while also gaining a five-year exemption into both the Regions Tradition and the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. On Sunday, Stricker made about a 13-foot birdie putt on the final hole to force the playoff when Cejka two-putted for par after a poor bunker shot.

"He holed a great putt under pressure to go back into the playoff," Cejka said. "It was a clutch putt. But in the playoff, I'm a winner. It might be different in 2-3 weeks."

Cejka had a run of three straight birdies from 12-14 to build a two-stroke advantage heading into the final five holes. Stricker's long birdie putt on No. 16 cut it in half before both parred 17.

Stricker had been clutch on No. 18 all weekend. He had birdied Friday to move into a share of the lead and vaulted to the lead solo with a 25-foot eagle putt on Saturday. Stricker had won both previous times on the PGA Tour Champions when holding the 54-hole lead, the Regions Tradition and U.S. Senior Open Championship, both in 2019. □

Van der Hoorn wins Giro 3rd stage; Ganna maintains lead

CANALE, Italy (AP) —

Breakaway rider Taco van der Hoorn narrowly held off the chasing pack to win the third stage of the Giro d'Italia on Monday, while Filippo Ganna held onto the pink jersey.

Van der Hoorn, a Dutch rider, was the last remaining member of an early breakaway in the 190-kilometer (118-mile) route from Biella to Canale, which featured three categorized climbs. He managed to finish four seconds

in front of the main pack. Davide Cimolai crossed second, four seconds behind, and Peter Sagan was third with the same time. Ganna, who won the time trial that opened the race, is 16 seconds ahead of Tobias Foss in the overall standings. Remco Evenepoel is third, 20 seconds back.

"I can't believe it," Van der Hoorn said. "I just wanted to be aggressive for the whole Giro. I knew it would be a very difficult to win a

stage. I took my chance but I didn't believe we'd make it with a one-minute lead going into the finale." Another hilly route awaits in Stage 4, a 187-kilometer (116-mile) route from Piacenza to Sestola. "We have seen a lot of sprinters being dropped in the climbs, there were not a lot of riders in the main group at the end, up the hill. I saw that Remco had fantastic legs," Ganna said. "It will be hard for me to defend the pink jersey tomorrow." □



Dutch rider Taco van der Hoorn celebrates winning the third stage of the Giro d'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race from Biella to Canale, Italy, Monday, May 10, 2021.

Associated Press

Report: Tebow-Meyer reunion on verge of becoming official

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

Tim Tebow and Urban Meyer are apparently getting back together, this time in the NFL.

The former Florida star and 2007 Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback is expected to team up with his college coach by signing a one-year contract to play for the Jacksonville Jaguars, the NFL Network reported Monday.

The league-owned network said the deal "could be official in the next week or so."

The 33-year-old Tebow would be returning to the NFL after four years (2016-19) in the New York Mets' organization and he'd be playing for Meyer for the first time since his senior year in 2009.

This reunion would come with a twist, though. Tebow would be joining the Jaguars as a tight end. He switched positions after retiring from baseball in February. He worked out for Jacksonville a week later. Meyer and general manager Trent Baalke are seemingly waiting until after this weekend's rookie minicamp to get the deal



Former Florida football player Tim Tebow speaks to fans after he was inducted in the Ring of Honor at Florida Field during the first half of an NCAA college football game against LSU in Gainesville, Fla., in this Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, file photo.

Associated Press

done.

Tebow, who grew up in Jacksonville, could fill a huge hole with his hometown team.

The Jaguars decided not to pick up a team option in veteran Tyler Eifert's contract and traded oft-injured 2019 draft pick Josh Oliver to Baltimore. They signed run-blocking specialist Chris Manhertz in free agency.

brought back James O'Shaughnessy and drafted Ohio State's Luke Farrell in the fifth round.

Those were considered minor moves after Meyer vowed to completely revamp the position group. Tebow, at the very least, would provide a splash. "That will be interesting to see how that contributes to us on offense," Jaguars

co-owner Tony Khan said recently. "Obviously Urban knows Tim really well, and Tim's got a great history of winning. Urban really believes he can help us, and I think it makes a lot of sense. And it's a position where we need to get better." But how much can a guy on the wrong side of 30 who's never played the position bring to the team?

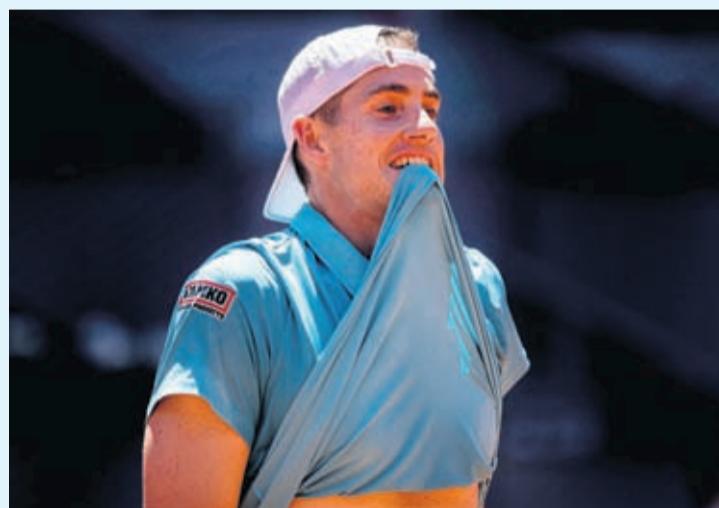
Tebow's value could mean as much off the field as on it.

Meyer has said repeatedly that signing players who already know his methodology would be helpful in Year 1. Tebow would become the sixth guy on Jacksonville's roster who previously played for Meyer, joining Farrell, running back Carlos Hyde, guard Andrew Norwell, defensive end Lerentee McCray and defensive tackle DaVon Hamilton. Tebow played quarterback for Meyer between 2006 and 2009, helping the Gators win two national championships while becoming one of the most recognizable — and polarizing — athletes in college sports.

He was a first-round draft pick by Denver in 2010, but his long windup led to a short NFL career. He spent time with the Broncos, the New York Jets, New England and Philadelphia. His last NFL game came with the Jets in 2012.

They cut him in April 2013, three months after then-Jaguars general manager Dave Caldwell famously said he wouldn't sign Tebow "even if he's released." □

No U.S. men in Top 30 for 1st time in computer tennis rankings



United States' John Isner during a match against Austria's Dominic Thiem at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Friday, May 7, 2021.

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

There are no American men in the ATP's Top 30 for the first time in the nearly half-century of computerized tennis rankings.

The highest-ranked man

from the U.S., Taylor Fritz, slid one place to No. 31 on Monday after a first-round loss at last week's Madrid Masters.

Next is John Isner, who made it to the quarterfinals on the red clay in

Spain and rose five spots to No. 34.

There always has been at least one man from the United States ranked in the Top 30 each week since the inception of the computer-calculated standings on Aug. 23, 1973. That includes No. 1s such as Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and, most recently, Andy Roddick, who held the top spot for 13 weeks from Nov. 30, 2003, to Feb. 1, 2004.

That was shortly after Roddick won the 2003 U.S. Open, the last time an American man won a Grand Slam singles title.

There are currently 10 players from the country in the Top 100, the same number that Italy has, although there are three Italians in

the Top 30: No. 9 Matteo Berrettini, No. 18 Jannik Sinner and No. 28 Fabio Fognini.

Novak Djokovic remained at No. 1 on Monday, extending his record for most weeks leading the ATP to 320, 10 more than the previous mark set by Roger Federer.

There's a new No. 2, however: Daniil Medvedev overtook that slot from Rafael Nadal, who lost in the quarterfinals in Madrid.

The biggest rise in the Top 50 came from Casper Ruud, a 22-year-old from Norway who moved up six spots to a career-best No. 16 after reaching the Madrid semifinals.

The most significant change in the WTA rankings was Aryna Sabalenka's jump to a career-high No. 4 from No. 7 after win-

ning the title in Madrid. Ash Barty, who lost to Sabalenka 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 in the final, held her No. 1 ranking.

The 2019 French Open champion is followed by No. 2 Naomi Osaka and No. 3 Simona Halep. Serena Williams, whose first tournament since February is this week's Italian Open, remained at No. 8. "Everyone gears up for Top 10 players, and so if I'm in the Top 10, I will be ready. Am I?" 23-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1 Williams said Monday at her pre-tournament news conference in Rome. "I don't even know where I am."

The next Grand Slam tournament is the French Open, which begins main-draw play in Paris on May 30. □